Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06359 121405Z

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 PER-03 ABF-01 FSE-00 /020 W
---------- 078259
P 121325Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2988

UNCLAS MADRID 6359

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ALOW, SP
SUBJECT: LIVING QUARTERS ALLOWANCES, SPAIN

REF: STATE A-5717, AUGUST 29, 1975

1. THE POST IS CURRENTLY COMPILING INFORMATION FOR SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL LIVING QUARTERS ALLOWANCE REPORT DUE OCT. 75. WE HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WILL BE JUSTIFIED
RECENT ARRIVALS HAVE EXPERIENCED EXTRAORDINARY INCREASES IN RENTS AND MOST LEASES CONTAIN ESCALATION CLAUSE FOR ANNUAL INCREASES BASED ON COST OF LIVING. QUARTERS RECENTLY VACATED AND VIEWED BY NEW ARRIVALS HAVE INCREASED IN MANY CASES OVER 50 PERCENT AND IN SOME CASES DOUBLED.

2. SPAIN IS NO LONGER THE COUNTRY OF REASONABLE COST AS KNOWN IN PAST YEARS, PARTICULARLYWHEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE HOUSING. MINIMUM COSTS FOR ADEQUATE FAMILY HOUSING WITHIN REASONABLE COMMUTING DISTANCE TO EMBASSY IS APPROXIMATELY $500 - $800 PER MONTH PLUS UTILITIES OF APPROXIMATELY $1200 - $1800 ANNUALLY.

3. IN VIEW PRELIMINARY STATISTICS AVAILABLE, POST REQUESTS RECLASSIFICATION OF LIVING QUARTERS ALLOWANCES CONTAINED IN REFERENCED AIRGRAM BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING COMPLETION HOUSING REPORT AND REVIEW BY ALLOWANCE DIVISION. THE RECENT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OUT-OF-POCKET HOUSING EXPENSES JUSTIFIES, IN THE EMBASSY'S BELIEF, HOLDING THE CURRENCY ADJUSTMENT IN ABEYANCE ON GROUNDS OF BOTH EQUITY
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AND EMPLOYEE MORALE.

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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